

Town of Mansfield Transportation Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting – October 8, 2015, Council Chambers

Present: Hultgren (chair), Ryan, Gupta, Nowak, Hall, Millman, Marcellino, Taylor, Carrington (Director of Public Works).

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm and introductions were made. The minutes of the July 9, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Hall/Ryan. The minutes of the April 30, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Ryan/Millman.

Members were told that the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) had been approved and was available on the Town's website. Carrington updated the committee on the progress in evaluating the request to extend the walkway on North Eagleville Road to Bone Mill Road – the evaluation is still in progress.

Carrington reported that the sidewalk ordinance was still being worked on by the Town Attorney, but he expected it to be released very shortly (note: it was released to staff the week of October 12th).

Marcellino updated members on WRTD activities and issues. He said they had moved into their new facilities on the Frontage Road and they were working through a number of routing and funding issues that had accumulated in recent years. He said that Mansfield, which is already one of the District's primary financial supporters, had appropriated additional funds for the current fiscal year to keep them operating and that discussions with UConn to help fund the Route 195 run (over and above the fare-free support) were being considered. A meeting with a parent group requesting additional bus routing off of Route 195 was scheduled for November 4th.

Carrington said that he had just received the re-drafted complete streets policy for the Town, but he had not compared it yet to the original draft submitted by Bike Mansfield and reviewed by the TAC. He said he would send it to the committee chair as soon as he had a chance to review it.

Carrington updated the committee on current transportation-related projects. (1) The sidewalk to the Liberty Bank Plaza and Storrs Heights is complete except for the lights and a few construction items including the crosswalks and the flashing warning signs for the new crosswalk at the bank. He said the walkway lights were being provided and installed by the power company and he wasn't sure when they would be able to complete them. Gupta suggested the 30 mph speed limit on 195 be extended to the South near where this new walkway begins. Hultgren said that the request has to be made by the Town's Traffic Authority, and that it had been discussed previously prior to the walkway project. Carrington will follow up on this with the Town Traffic Authority. (2) The walkway from Route 195 to the Southeast School project is now being surveyed so that design can begin. (3) A pavement management study of all the Town's paved roadways is underway and should be completed in December. (4) Portions of Mansfield City Road and Hunting Lodge Road have been repaved. (5) The Town is considering several options for traffic on the unpaved portion of Ravine Road during the winter months. (6) Wilbur Cross Way is now open to traffic again, and the busses are using WCW instead of Rte 195 for this short section of their N-S routes. Signs have been placed on the Rte 195 bus stops in this section to notify passengers. (7) Paving of Route 195 where the new water lines have been installed is slated to begin next week.

Hultgren updated the committee on bike advocacy activities. (1) A stakeholder meeting for persons and organizations interested in Mansfield's bicycle and pedestrian master plan is yet to be scheduled. (2) Unattended bikes (bikes left for more than a week!) were noticed and removed in recent weeks to make room on the public bike racks for bicycle parking. (3) The painting of sharrows on the roads in Storrs

Center should be done very soon (note: these were painted the week of Oct 12th). (4) The request to sign three sections of Route 195 and one section of Rte 89 as Town bike routes was sent to DOT in Newington, and now has to be sent to the District office in Norwich for encroachment permits. (5) Bike-related workshops are underway with workshops scheduled for every Wed evening in October at the Community Center. (6) Bike Mansfield is working with the Downtown Partnership to publicize the bicycle commuting facilities in the Transportation Center.

Nowak suggested some type of training be done for drivers in Mansfield for operating a motor vehicle safely and correctly around bicycles. It was suggested a program could be developed for Town employees as a start. Research on what type of program could be offered and to who will be referred to the Bike Mansfield group which is meeting on October 13th.

Under other business, Taylor reported that parking in his private (and other nearby) lots by people not going to any of the businesses in his buildings (or others) is getting worse and with the addition of two more “grab and go” businesses along Route 195 (including a Dunkin Donuts) it will be impossible. Discussion then took place with several committee members agreeing with him. Hultgren noted that the parking agreements in place included mechanisms for increased enforcement (by the operators of the Storrs Center parking garage) to control just this type of problem. Taylor said that he had been told that these enforcement people are “not available”. Hultgren also offered that there was a Parking Steering Committee in existence that was supposed to deal with these issues, not the TAC. After much discussion, a motion was made by Taylor and seconded by Hall to bring to the attention of the Town Council the concern that there are parking problems on Route 195 in the private lots and the mechanisms to deal with them (previously anticipated and authorized by agreements) are apparently not being implemented. The motion passed with Hultgren, Millman and Nowak abstaining.

The 2016 meeting schedule (the 2nd Thursday of each quarter) was approved on a motion by Ryan/Taylor. The next meeting will therefore be scheduled for January 14, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 on a motion by Gupta/Marcellino.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren, Chair